

## THE TRIBUNE.

Mr. Tyler and the Land Distribution.  
*Extract from the Speech of Mr. GOGGIN of Va. on the Provisional Tariff Bill.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 12.

[After stating the general nature of the Public Land question; the cession of the Lands by the Union by Virginia, New-York and other States, expressly on the condition that they should be managed and disposed of as "a common fund for the benefit of all the States;" and the President's Messages and decisions of the Supreme Court, defining and holding inviolate those conditions, Mr. GOGGIN proceeded:]

But, Mr. Chairman, I have said that the opinions which I entertained on this subject were in part confirmed in my mind by the President himself; by that Virginian now at the head of the Executive, whom I once regarded, while he was an old-fashioned Virginia Burgess, as a sort of teacher of political truth—true to which I was inclined to give a ready assent. To none of his doctrines, however, did I so readily yield, to none have I so constantly adhered, as that which was maintained by him in respect to the proper disposition to be made of the public lands. I allude to that period of his political life when he was last a member of the Virginia Legislature, from the county of Charles City, when I cannot suppose a statesman so exalted as the Presidency of these twenty-six United States had tempted his ambition. It was at a time, too, when, in giving utterance to his sentiments, he only spoke the words of truth and of soberness, but his opinions were those of both Whig and Democrat in the Legislature of which he was a member.

In the year 1839, sir, (just before Mr. Tyler's nomination to the Vice-Presidency,) as chairman of the committee of the House of Delegates, to which the subject was referred, he made a most satisfactory report of which he was the author, sustaining the principles he had before advocated, and urging that the proceeds of the Public Lands belonged rightfully to the States, as I have learned they now do. That report (said Mr. G.) I have now in my hands, and I beg leave to read an extract or two from it, in order to strengthen the arguments on which I myself rely in supporting the measure. Speaking of Virginia's claim, he says—

"Thus, then, should the proposed bill, as reported by the Senate, pass, the Public Lands would be denied to your constituents, to perceive any sound objection to this; but on the contrary, would signify its inquiry for the future, from the past, it considers that General Assembly as bound, by the highest considerations of State policy, to make a distribution of the lands among the different States." The language of effect of such a measure upon all the States would naturally be manifested when the bill of the last session was passed. This bill, however, did not become law at the time of the report, made by him, and the adoption of the funding resolution. I would be unwilling to go far, and I presume he would not also, being opposed, as he is, to distribution altogether. I only want the amount that shall hereafter accrue, divided according to the principles of the bill. I ask not that the United States shall now be held to account (as they have nothing to pay) for these old balances."

Mr. Tyler, however, in making the distribution of the land fund among the States, did it with a salve or proviso, that he had no wish to disturb the compromise bill, so called, in which the friends of distribution have always expressed their concurrence with him; though it has, as I conceive, no connexion whatever with a fund admitted by him to belong, the whole of it, to the States, and as he had admitted by voting against Judge Bayly's proposition, which, in express terms, referred to the act of March 2, 1833."

Mr. Chairman, at the time to which I have had reference, several of my colleagues, now on this floor, were members of the House of Delegates, and voted, as did Mr. Tyler, on all these various resolutions. I allude to the gentlemen from the Augusta, Albermarle, Frederick, Mecklenburg, and Richmond District, (Messrs. STUART, GILMER, BARTON, GOODE, and BOTT,) all of whom, save my friend from Mecklenburg, (Mr. GOODE,) voted with Mr. Tyler, I believe, invariably; and to those gentlemen I now return my most sincere thanks for the very decided advocacy they gave to the policy of Distribution, and to which no doubt, they will adhere. As for my colleague, (Mr. GOODE,) who then dissented from the others, I believe he has been a consistent opponent of this policy, and I have therefore no fault to find with his course.

And on this the Ayes and Noses were demanded, and it was adopted unanimously—Ayes, 130.

The third resolution, opposing the graduation of the price of the Public Lands, as "injuring their condition" and impairing the equality of benefits arising from the same, was adopted, only thirteen voting against it.

The fourth resolution, as reported by the Committee originally, was in the following words:

"Resolved, That the lands acquired by the United States, in whose name as well as in whose behalf, in the course of the Public Lands in such manner as will fairly come to the benefit of all the States which may own, or shall hereafter be, members of this Confederacy, and that General Assembly approves, and adopts, as far as the same can be calculated, to attain the most desirable object."

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